Leicester, Sunday Eveg., Octr. 25th 57.

Dear Mr. Webb — I had the pleasure of writing you a letter (though quite a hurried one, at Boston on Wednesday morng. last, & sending it off by the Steamer wh. left Boston on that day. — The next day Mrs. Chapman was in town, and put on my desk a parcel addressed to you in S. H. Gay's handwriting, and at the same time gave me a memorandum of some half-a-dozen things which she desired me to procure, & send to you, "together with Mr. Gay's parcel, per steamer." Of course, in such circumstances, I could not do very well, but being quite willing to do my best, and knowing that "the best can do no more", I set about the various commissions, and will now report progress to you. As "the steamer" had sailed the day before, I must look for another conveyance. I did not think it best to wait a fortnight, for the next steamr. fr. Boston, nor to subject you to the expense of land-carriage to N. York, in order to have yr. parcels go thence "by steamer"; and so, having ascertained that one of Thayer & Warren's (formerly Train's) line of packet-ships was to sail for Liverpool on Saturday 24th (yesterday), I got together what I could of the articles wanted, which were only as follows: A roll of 5 prints, (as per M. C. Nell's account which I enclose to you in this,) according to Mrs. C.'s memorandum, and for which I have paid 4 dollars, and charged you therewith in my account. This, and the parcel from Mr. Gay, I took to Mr. Thayer, who assured me they should go in the ship referred to. She probably did not sail yesterday — it is to be hoped not, for an easterly storm, some time brewing,

set in the latter part of the yesterday, and is now howling and raging furiously. The parcels both are directed to care S. R. Graves, Baltic Buildings, Liverpool, to whom you will please give further orders. — I could not procure for you the book of J. Dixon Long, the Methodist minister, as I was told there was not a copy in Boston. But I shall be able to get one in a few days, I expect, and will send it, if I get it, by another ship of Thayer & Warren's, to sail Sat. next, 31st inst. At the same time I mean to send, if I can get one, a copy of H. R. Helper's book to Eliza Wigham of Edinburgh, I have been honoured with a kind note from her, last week; — she asks me to send her Helper's book. It does not seem a very good way to send it to Dublin, in order to get it to Edinburgh; and I think I will make a separate parcel, & request S. R. Graves to put it in the way of reaching Ed.gh, which it will doubtless readily do by some of your parcels-carriers, — "expresses", we call them in this Country. — Another item on Mr. Chapman's Memorandum was as follows: "$1.25 worth of scions of the Bartlett pear, packed for travelling". For this, I called at the office of the Mass. Horticultural Soc.y, and was there advised by a youngster (the only person then in the Store) not to have the scions cut at present, as they would not (he affirmed) be alive by the time they reached you. — I thought he was talking nonsense; but having no time for further inquiry in Boston then, as I

was leaving the city shortly for this place, I resolved to call on my friend John Milton Earle in Worcester (Editor of the Massachusetts Spy, and as good a Pomologist as an Editor, very learned in Pears especially, & who had a upwards of one hundred & twenty varieties of pear on exhibition at the late Horticultural Society's Show in this County, - and all raised on his own trees,). and get his advice. He told me that the scions might be cut and sent now, - although the spring is the better time, of course, being just when they are to be set. But, he added, that he thought you would not want scions of the Bartlett pear sent to you from America, if you were aware of the fact that the fruit is well known in England, (& probably in Ireland) as Williams' Bon Chrétien. He says it is the same - took down a volume on Pomology, & showed me the statement there that the two are the same, - that the tree was first imported into America, about 1797, by a gentleman living near Boston, named Bartlett. He lost the true name by an accident (or otherwise), & thus it came that his own was given to this fruit. Mr. Earle says that the standard trees of this fruit are still annually imported here from England; and, in these circumstances, thinks you will not wish scions from here. But if you do, it will not be too late to cut them this fall, (unless severely cold weather sets in earlier than common,) provided you will send an immediate reply to this.

Will you permit me to add that, while we value the Bartlett pear as well-flavoured, of good size, juicy, and a large bearer, we think it altogeth inferior, in flavor & excellence, to a great many other kinds easily raised here - among which I will name the Marie Louise - Paradise d'Autonne - Dix - Urbaniste - Seckel, and I might add a dozen or two more by consulting a little book I have. The Seckel pear exceeds, in delicate & spicy flavour, everything I know of the pear kind. But it never grows large, and is a small bearer, - & (I believe) rather difficult of culture - I shall be very happy to serve you, in obtaining any scions of any kind I can, & forwarding them to you. As they cannot be set until Spring, I do not see the necessity of sending them "per steamer"; but I will do as you wish in the matter. — I should add that the ship by which the 2 parcels (Gay's & the prints) are sent is the "Howadji."

Oct. 26.

N.B. I omit sending W. C. Nell's receipt (for $4.) in this ~~parcel~~ envelope, as I wish more to send you one or two recent newspaper items - which seem to me very suitable for Advocate, although they may be stale for your December No.

Let me not forget to say how much I have enjoyed your letter in the last Standard, respecting the meeting of the British Association. The humor of your enjoyment of the pleasant visit to Lord Rosse's, though "you lament to say you weren't there", is really fine, with a genuine touch (you will permit me to say) of the most beautiful Hibernianism. - Did you go to the Arran Isles? — What can have happened to George Thompson? Best regards to Mrs. Webb - Truly Yrs. S. Mayall